

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for rewarding a party for complying with a medicine schedule
2 comprising:
3 receiving information regarding whether at least two medicine containers were
4 able to communicate during a pre-determined time period;
5 determining a level to which the party complied with a medicine schedule based
6 on the information; and
7 rewarding the party based on the level.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the information comprises encrypted
2 information.

3 3. A method comprising:
4 receiving a signal; and
5 determining whether a first container for storing a first medicine was
6 positioned so as to wirelessly communicate with a second container for storing a
7 second medicine based at least in part on the signal.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein receiving a signal comprises receiving
2 the signal from a device that monitors at least an indicator of whether the first container
3 and the second container are positioned so as to wirelessly communicate.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the device comprises at least one of the
2 first container and the second container.

1 6. The method of claim 4 wherein receiving the signal from a device that
2 monitors at least an indicator of whether the first container and the second container are
3 positioned so as to wirelessly communicate comprises polling the device.

1 7. The method of claim 3 wherein receiving a signal comprises receiving a
2 signal from at least one of a representative of a pharmacy, a representative of a medical
3 facility and a party that is to take at least one of the first and the second medicines.

1 8. The method of claim 3 wherein receiving a signal comprises receiving a
2 code.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the code is an encrypted code.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein determining whether a first container for
2 storing a first medicine was positioned so as to wirelessly communicate with a second
3 container for storing a second medicine based at least in part on the signal comprises
4 decrypting the encrypted code.

1 11. The method of 3 wherein determining whether a first container for
2 storing a first medicine was positioned so as to wirelessly communicate with a second
3 container for storing a second medicine based at least in part on the signal comprises
4 determining whether the signal indicates that the first container for storing the first
5 medicine was positioned so as to wirelessly communicate with the second container for
6 storing the second medicine during a pre-determined time period.

1 12. The method of 3 further comprising determining if at least one party has
2 complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine based at
3 least in part on the received signal.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein determining if at least one party has
2 complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine based at
3 least in part on the received signal comprises:

4 receiving first information regarding a prescribed schedule for taking the
5 first medicine and the second medicine;

6 receiving second information regarding a schedule for taking the first
7 medicine and the second medicine adhered to by the at least one party;

8 comparing the first information to the second information; and

9 generating at least an indicator of a level to which the at least one party
10 has complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein obtaining first information regarding the first medicine and the second medicine comprises obtaining the first information from at least one of a representative of a pharmacy, a representative of a medical facility and a representative of a manufacturer of at least one of the first and the second medicines.

15. A method comprising:
receiving a signal from a device that monitors whether a first container for storing a first medicine and a second container for storing a second medicine are positioned so as to communicate; and
determining if at least one party has complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine based at least in part on the received signal.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein determining if at least one party has complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine based at least in part on the received signal comprises determining whether the first container was positioned so as to communicate with the second container based at least in part on the received signal.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein determining if at least one party has complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine based at least in part on the received signal comprises:
receiving first information regarding the first medicine and the second medicine;
receiving second information regarding the first medicine and the second medicine from the received signal;
comparing the first information to the second information; and
generating at least an indicator of a level to which the at least one party has complied with a schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine based on the comparison of the first and the second information.

18. The method of claim 15 further comprising rewarding the at least one party if the at least one party has complied with the schedule.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein rewarding the at least one party comprises:

determining a level to which the at least one party has complied with the schedule; and

rewarding the at least one party based on the level.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein rewarding the party for complying with the schedule comprises:

- providing the at least one party with a list of rewards;
- receiving a selection of one of the listed rewards; and
- providing the selected reward to the at least one party.

21. The method of claim 18 wherein rewarding the at least one party for complying with the schedule comprises providing the at least one party with a reward selected by at least one of a representative of an insurance company and a representative of a medical facility.

22. The method of claim 18 wherein rewarding the at least one party for complying with the schedule comprises:

- examining a previous level to which the at least one party has complied to the schedule; and
- providing the at least one party a reward based at least in part on the previous level.

23. The method of claim 18 wherein rewarding the at least one party comprises:

providing the at least one party a first reward based on a distance between the first container and the second container; and

Figure 1 consists of 12 bar charts, each representing a different demographic or health-related category. Each chart displays the percentage of respondents for that category across six age groups: 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, and 65+. The categories are: 1. Gender, 2. Education, 3. Income, 4. Marital status, 5. Employment, 6. Home ownership, 7. Vehicle ownership, 8. Health insurance, 9. Life insurance, 10. Disability, 11. Chronic condition, and 12. Mental health. The charts show how these characteristics vary across the different age groups.

5 providing the at least one party a second reward based on at least one
6 other indicator that the at least one party has complied with the schedule for taking the
7 first medicine and the second medicine.

1 24. The method of claim 15 further comprising penalizing the at least one
2 party if the at least one party has not complied with the schedule.

1 25. The method of claim 24 wherein penalizing the at least one party
2 comprises charging the at least one party for at least a portion of a treatment of an
3 illness resulting from the at least one party not complying with the schedule.

1 26. An apparatus comprising:
2 a communication device adapted to receive a signal;
3 a processor coupled to the communication device, the processor adapted
4 to obtain the signal via the communication device;
5 a computer program, the computer program executable by the processor
6 so as to direct the processor to:
7 receive the signal, and
8 determine whether a first container for storing a first medicine was
9 positioned so as to communicate with a second container for storing a second
10 medicine based at least in part on the signal.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the computer program further
2 includes program code executable by the processor so as to direct the processor to
3 determine if at least one party has complied with a schedule for taking the first
4 medicine and the second medicine based at least in part on the received signal.

1 28. A system for rewarding at least one party for complying with a schedule
2 for taking a first medicine and a second medicine comprising:
3 a first container adapted to store a first medicine;
4 a second container adapted to store a second medicine and to
5 communicate with the first container;
6 a compliance monitoring device adapted to:

7 communicate with at least the first container;
8 determine, based on at least a communication with the first
9 container, whether the first container is positioned so as to communicate with
10 the second container;
11 generate data based at least in part on whether the first container
12 is positioned so as to communicate with the second container; and
13 output the data; and
14 a server adapted to:
15 receive the data output by the compliance monitoring
16 device; and
17 reward at least one party based on the received
18 data.

1 29. The system of claim 28 wherein the server is further adapted to:
2 determine a level to which the at least one party has complied with a
3 schedule for taking the first medicine and the second medicine based at least in part on
4 the data received from the compliance monitoring device; and
5 reward the at least one party based on the level.

1 30. A computer program product comprising:
2 a medium readable by a computer, the computer readable medium
3 having:
4 program code adapted to obtain information regarding whether at
5 least two medicine containers were able to communicate during a pre-
6 determined time period;
7 program code adapted to determine a level to which the party
8 complied with a medicine schedule based on the information; and
9 program code adapted to determine a reward for the party based
10 on the level.

1 31. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the reward
2 comprises a discount on a product.

32. An apparatus comprising:
means for obtaining information that identifies whether a first medicine
container and a second medicine container were able to communicate during a pre-
determined time period; and
means for rewarding a party based on the information.

33. A method comprising:

a step for obtaining information that identifies whether a first medicine container and a second medicine container were able to communicate during a pre-determined time period; and

a step for rewarding a party based on the information.

